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ZNR UUUUU ZZH

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R 281315Z NOV 05

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

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"PERISHABLE INFORMATION -- DO NOT SERVICE"

E.O. 12958: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, GM

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CIA STEINMEIER MEPP ENVIRONMENT

HARBIN CHECHNYA;BERLIN

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(FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE)
CIA AFFAIR BURDENING STEINMEIER'S TRIP TO U.S. (SÜDDEUTSCHE
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EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON FOREIGN MINISTER STEINMEIER'S UPCOMING
TRIP TO THE U.S. AND THE REFORM OF SALARIES FOR
PARLIAMENTARIANS. ZDF-TV'S EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST HEUTE AND
ARD-TV'S EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST TAGESSCHAU OPENED WITH
STORIES ON THE CHAOS IN WESTERN GERMANY CAUSED BY HEAVY
SNOWFALL.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2005

HEADLINES

MERKEL DEFENDS NEW BURDENS (FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE)
GERMAN RAIL PLANS MOVE FROM BERLIN TO HAMBURG (SÜDDEUTSCHE
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HAMBURG LURES GERMAN RAIL FROM BERLIN (DIE WELT)
GROWING ANNOYANCE OVER CIA FLIGHTS (FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU)
GERMAN RAIL HEADQUARTERS WANTS TO LEAVE BERLIN (TAGESSPIEGEL
BERLINER ZEITUNG)
EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET POLICY. ZDF-
TV'S EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST HEUTE LED WITH A REPORT ON THE
GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET POLICY, AND ARD-TV'S EARLY EVENING
NEWSCAST TAGESSCHAU OPENED WITH A STORY ON THE CIA.

B. (U.S.) CIA FLIGHTS

1. "DEMOCRACY AT THE ABYSS"

MARKUS GÜNTHER JUDGED IN AN EDITORIAL IN CENTRIST KÖLN
STADT-ANZEIGER OF COLOGNE (11/28):

"THE WESTERN PUBLIC WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO GRANT
THE UNITED STATES A CERTAIN SCOPE OF ACTION IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST TERRORISM IF IT COULD BASICALLY TRUST THE GOVERNMENT

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IN WASHINGTON AND ITS INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. FOLLOWING 9/11, THE UNITED STATES FACED THE CHALLENGE TO DEFEND ITS LEGAL NORMS, I.E. TO REACT TO THE BRUTALITY OF TERROR WITH THE CIVILIZED AND MODERATE POWER OF
***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 *****

F
DEMOCRACY INSTEAD OF ANSWERING BARBARITY WITH NEW BARBARITY. BUT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION FAILED TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE. IT HAS SACRIFICED ELEMENTARY NORMS AND PRINCIPLES. BUT BY SACRIFICING ITS PRINCIPLES, A DEMOCRATIC STATE IS DESCENDING INTO AN ABYSS."

2. RIGHT-OF-CENTER SCHWQBISCHE ZEITUNG OF LEUTKIRCH (11/28) HAD THIS TO SAY:

"ACCORDING TO THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION, THE AGENTS SHOULD TAKE OFF THEIR GLOVES IN THE ANTI-TERROR FIGHT. APPARENTLY, THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WERE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO TAKE ON THE MASK OF TORTURERS FOR THIS PURPOSE. AND IT DOES NOT PLAY A ROLE WHETHER THE CIA REPRESENTATIVES TORTURE THE DELINQUENTS 'ONLY A BIT' OR WHETHER THEY WATCH SUSPECTS WRIGGLE HOOKED UP TO ELECTRIC WIRES IN QUESTIONABLE COUNTRIES. WHAT THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IS DOING CONTRADICTS THE SPIRIT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND THUS THE IDEALS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THAT IS ONE REASON WHY EVEN REPUBLICANS OPPOSE SUCH PRACTICES. BUT THEIR PRESIDENT DOES NOT SHARE THEIR REJECTION. HIS VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY IS EVEN FIGHTING FOR THE CIA TO CONTINUE WITH THESE METHODS. FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY BASED ON TORTURE? THIS GOVERNMENT IS MORALLY FINISHED."

C. GERMANY-U.S.) STEINMEIER TO WASHINGTON, CIA FLIGHTS

1. "DIFFICULT NEW BEGINNING"

PETER STURM COMMENTED IN CENTER-RIGHT FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (11/28):

"THERE WOULD BE A LOT TO CLEAR UP IN U.S.-GERMAN RELATIONS EVEN UNDER USUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT WHEN U.S. FOREIGN MINISTER STEINMEIER ARRIVES IN THE U.S. THIS MONDAY, THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT NORMAL AT ALL, AT LEAST IN THE PUBLIC MIND. FOR DAYS, THERE HAS BEEN ONLY ONE ISSUE: ALLEGED SECRET CIA PRISONER FLIGHTS. AS IF IT WERE THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD, THIS ISSUE IS EQUATED WITH U.S. REPORTS ON SECRET PRISONS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES, WHERE

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DETAINEES ARE SUPPOSEDLY TORTURED. THESE THINGS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY SEPARATED. IT IS NOT AT ALL REPREHENSIBLE IF SUSPECTS ARE CAPTURED SOMEWHERE AND THEN TAKEN TO OTHER PLACES BY PLANES FOR INTERROGATIONS. HOWEVER, IT CANNOT BE TOLERATED IF DETAINEES ARE TORTURED.

"THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAS THE GREAT CHANCE PUT THINGS STRAIGHT HERE. IT WOULD BE SMART TO DO THIS WHEN THE GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER IS THERE. COULD THERE BE A MORE CONVINCING SIGNAL FOR A NEW BEGINNING? THE UNINFORMED PUBLIC MUST BE PUZZLED WHY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT CLEARLY REJECTED THE REPORTS ON SECRET PRISONS. DOES THIS MEAN THAT WASHINGTON DOES NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT SUCH UNPLEASANT MATTERS? .. IF THE REPORTS ARE RIGHT, THEY WILL BE UNCOVERED, AT LEAST IN AMERICA. BUSH'S GOVERNMENT MUST KNOW THIS. WITHOUT ANY OBVIOUS NEED, IT MANEUVERED ITSELF INTO A DIFFICULT POSITION. GIVEN THE DIFFICULT SITUATION IN IRAQ, WASHINGTON NOW NEEDS ITS FRIENDS MORE URGENTLY THAN EVER BEFORE. IF THIS UNDERSTANDING GROWS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC, THE ALLIANCE WILL HAVE A REAL CHANCE AGAIN."

2. "NEITHER LOUD ARROGANCE NOR STILL COWARDICE"
CHRISTIAN WERNICKE ARGUED IN CENTER-LEFT SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (11/28):

"DONT WORRY, THEY WILL BE NICE TO HIM. SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE WILL BE SMILING WHEN HER NEW
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 3 *****/

COLLEAGUE FROM GERMANY WILL PAY HIS COURTESY CALL ON AMERICA. ALSO IN THE WHITE HOUSE, WHERE FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER WILL MEET WITH GEORGE W. BUSH'S CLOSEST SECURITY ADVISOR, THINGS WILL BE FRIENDLY, NICE AND CORDIAL. OF COURSE, THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE DESIRED SOMEBODY ELSE, NOT A CLOSE AIDE OF FORMER CHANCELLOR SCHRDER. NOBODY IN WASHINGTON IS SORRY ABOUT THE DEPARTURE OF THE FIERCE IRAQ REBEL.. THE GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON MUST TAKE WHAT IT GETS AT THE MOMENT. THE PRESIDENT IS ON THE DEFENSIVE DUE TO DOMESTIC SCANDALS AND, ABOVE ALL, THE DISASTER IN IRAQ. IN SUCH A MISERABLE SITUATION, EVEN THE STRONGEST POWER IN THE WORLD MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO FRIGHTEN ALLIES. WASHINGTON KNOWS WHAT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR BERLIN.

"STEINMEIER MADE CLEAR THAT ONE SHOULD SPARE HIM REQUESTS FOR DEPLOYING GERMAN SOLDIERS IN IRAQ. CHANCELLOR MERKEL SENT SIMILAR SIGNALS, OBEYING THE GERMAN PUBLIC

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OPINION. HOWEVER, THE BLACK-RED GOVERNMENT'S SILENCE ON SECRET CIA CAMPS AND SUSPECTED TORTURE IN EUROPE IS ASTONISHING. ALTHOUGH THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE ALSO DEPORTS ITS HUMAN CARGO OVER GERMAN PORTS, GERMAN OFFICIALS REMAIN QUIET. OTHER EU CAPITALS ARE MORE CONFIDENT HERE.. TO CRITICIZE CIA CAMPS, PRESENTED AS EUROPEAN CONCERNS AND WITHOUT GERMAN ARROGANCE, WOULD NOT BE HARMFUL."

3. "IN SCHRDER'S SHADOW"

HANS MONATH EDITORIALIZED IN CENTRIST DER TAGESSPIEGEL OF BERLIN (11/28):

"THE INTERESTING QUESTION IS HOW MUCH SCHRDER AND HOW MUCH MERKEL FOREIGN MINISTER STEINMEIER COMPRISES? THE BACKDROP OF HIS VISIT IS MURKY. THE CIA REPORTS RECALL THE UGLY SIDE OF THE AMERICAN WAR ON TERROR. WITH CAUTIOUS STATEMENTS, THE MINISTER INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE CONCERNS. BUT HE CAREFULLY AVOIDED CONFRONTING HIS HOSTS S

WITH DEMANDS BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL. THE BRITISH EU PRESIDENCY IS SUPPOSED TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE. STEINMEIER HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN A CLEAR JOB. THE COALITION CONTRACT DID NOT DISSOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SPD AND CDU/CSU'S FOREIGN POLICIES. THE SPD AND THE FORMER CHANCELLOR EXPECT STEINMEIER TO DEFEND SCHRDER'S PEACE POLICY. HOWEVER, MERKEL WOULD BE A BAD CHANCELLOR IF SHE DID NOT SET HER OWN AGENDA. SHE HAS ALREADY DONE THAT IN HER FIRST WEEK. QUIETLY, SHE FINISHED SCHRDER'S SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND RUSSIA, BY DISREGARDING CHIRAC'S VERBAL EMBRACEMENT AND STRESSING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SMALLER EU MEMBERS. ALSO IN REGARD TO RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON, MERKEL ADDRESSES THE DIFFERENCES. SHE WANTS MORE PROXIMITY AND MORE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES."

4. "THE SHADOW OF THE CIA"

BUSINESS DAILY HANDELSBLATT OF DUESSELDORF (11/28) NOTED:

"PARLIAMENTARIANS OF ALL PARTIES HAVE CALLED UPON FOREIGN MINISTER STEINMEIER TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF CIA

A

FLIGHTS DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. INSTEAD OF HARMONY, CRITICISM IS COMING UP ALL OF A SUDDEN, EVEN IN THE CDU/CSU. THE 'RESIDUAL BURDEN' OF THE U.S. ANTI-TERROR FIGHT IS NOW THREATENING TO DISRUPT THE NEW RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES. BUT THE CIA ISSUE ONLY STRESSES THE DILEMMA OF GERMAN-U.S. RELATIONS. BEYOND PERSONAL RELATIONS

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BETWEEN BUSH AND SCHRDER, THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE IRAQ WAR WAS MAINLY BASED ON THE QUESTION WHAT IS ALLOWED AND REASONABLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ISLAMIC TERRORISM. AND BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN MARKED BY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES AND ROLES. WHILE THE U.S. SUPERPOWER HAD TO COME TO TERMS WITH /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 4 *****/

THE 9/11 ATTACKS AND HAD TO ACT AS GLOBAL COP, GERMANY DID NOT HAVE TO DO EITHER THE FORMER OR THE LATTER.

"THE ANALYSIS DOES NOT ADDRESS THE PROBLEM. BUT THE AMERICANS MUST FINALLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE EXISTENCE OF CAMPS LIKE GUANTNAMO IS A DISGRACE FOR DEMOCRACY, AND DETRIMENTAL RATHER THAN USEFUL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR.

BUT THE GERMANS IN TURN MUST GIVE UP THEIR PSEUDO-INNOCENT NAVET THAT INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW. STEINMEIER MUST TRY TO CONTRIBUTE TO SETTLING THINGS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC."

5. "THE FIRST HURDLE"

BUSINESS DAILY FINANCIAL TIMES DEUTSCHLAND OF HAMBURG (11/28) ARGUED:

"THE NEW CHANCELLOR HAD PLANNED TO GIVE GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS A MORE PLEASANT TONE. BUT MERKEL HAS HARDLY ENTERED OFFICE WHEN THE AMERICANS MADE A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS MORE DIFFICULT WITH THE SCANDAL SURROUNDING THE KIDNAPPING FLIGHTS OF THE CIA.. IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE MATTER, IT IS RIGHT THAT THE EU HAS NOW OFFICIALLY ASKED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR INFORMATION - AND THIS INFORMATION IS OVERDUE.. IN THE WAR ON TERROR, THE NATO PARTNERS ALLOWED THE UNITED STATES TO DO WHAT IT WANTED AND THEY ONLY HESITANTLY PROTESTED THE ILLEGAL CAMPS IN GUANTNAMO.. EUROPEAN REALPOLITIK HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS: IT IT

NEEDS THE UNITED STATES AND TALKS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP, GIVES IN TO PRESSURE, WHICH IT WOULD NEVER HAVE ACCEPTED FROM OTHERS.. AND AT THE SAME TIME IT IS CURSING THE BIG BROTHER. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE GERMAN AND THE EU GOVERNMENTS MUST INSIST ON INFORMATION TO REMAIN CREDIBLE. THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE, CANNOT IGNORE THE SUSPICION THAT AMERICANS SYSTEMATICALLY TORTURE AND MAKE THE EUROPEANS - LIKE IT OR NOT - THEIR ACCOMPLICE.

"DURING HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY RICE, FOREIGN

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MINISTER STEINMEIER CANNOT HELP BUT TO RAISE CRITICAL QUESTIONS. IT IS A FIRST, VERY EARLY TEST FOR THE NEW CHIEF DIPLOMAT. HIS TASK IS ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT, BECAUSE HE IS PRESSED TO USE CLEAR LANGUAGE, EVEN THOUGH HE HAS NO CLEAR EVIDENCE. AMONG FRIENDS, HE CAN PROBABLY OPENLY ADDRESS POSSIBLE CONFLICTS. AND IF QUESTIONS ARE INVOLVED THAT ARE FUNDAMENTAL FOR COMMON VALUES, OPEN WORDS ARE ALL THE MORE NECESSARY."

6. LEFT-OF-CENTER NRNBERGER NACHRICHTEN (11/28) ARGUED:

"THERE WAS A REASON WHY THE CDU/CSU ACCUSED THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE RED-GREEN GOVERNMENT OF BEING NEGLIGENT WHEN IT CAME TO HUMAN RIGHTS. THAT IS WHY IT WOULD BE WISE IF THE GRAND COALITION WERE SERIOUS ABOUT ITS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WOULD OPENLY ADDRESS VIOLATIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS. IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN PLEASE DO THIS ALSO IN THE UNITED STATES. FOREIGN MINISTER STEINMEIER HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW. THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IS NOW SEARCHING POSSIBLE TORTURE CAMPS IN THE EU BY MEANS OF SATELLITE PICTURES. THIS IS A GROTESQUE SITUATION: THE U.S. ALLY REFUSES TO HELP. AND IN EASTERN EUROPE, THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY NATIONS WHICH ACCEPT SUCH CAMPS ON THEIR TERRITORY AND ARE NOW TRYING TO BECOME EU MEMBERS. IN THIS CONTEXT, IMPLICATIONS ARE INDISPENSABLE."

7. LEFT-OF-CENTER HAMBURGER MORGENPOST (11/28) NOTED:

"IT SOUNDS LIKE A THREAT: ANGELA MERKEL PLANS TO
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 5 *****/

IMPROVE GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.. WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GERMAN-AMERICAN ICE-AGE, THERE WAS THE REJECTION OF THE U.S. WAR ON THE SADDAM REGIME. AND IN VIEW OF THE MILITARY DISASTER IN IRAQ, THE LIES AND FALSIFICATIONS, SCHRDER'S REACTION WAS ALMOST TOO MILD. SO, IT IS NOT BERLIN THAT NEEDS TO CORRECT SOMETHING. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE MOST RECENT REVELATIONS ABOUT ILLEGAL CIA DEPORTATIONS OF ALLEGED TERRORISTS, THE GERMAN PUBLIC ALMOST EXPECTS [THE GOVERNMENT] TO TALK PLAIN ENGLISH WITH BUSH - AND THIS ALL IN FRIENDSHIP, OF COURSE."

D. (MEPP) BARGHOUTI, RAFAH, PEACE PROCESS

1. "ISRAEL'S TRUMP CARD"

DIETRICH ALEXANDER ARGUED IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER DIE WELT OF

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BERLIN (11/28):

"WITH MARWAN BARGHOUTI, THE IMPRISONED PALESTINIAN LEADER, ISRAEL KEEPS A REAL TRUMP CARD, WHICH COULD BE PLAYED AGAINST THE INCREASING RADICALIZATION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. A FREE BARGHOUTI WOULD EARN ISRAEL A GREAT DEAL OF TRUST AND GUARANTY THE VICTORY OF THE GOVERNING FATAH PARTY OVER THE EMERGING RADICAL HAMAS."

2. RIGHT-OF-CENTER NRNBERGER ZEITUNG (11/28) COMMENTED:

"NOW IT IS UP TO THE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY IT HAS ASSUMED WITH THE CONTROL OVER THE BORDER TO EGYPT. THE CHECKPOINT RAFAH IS SUPPOSED TO BOOST THE GAZA STRIP'S ECONOMY AND NOT THE EXTREMISM. IF THE PALESTINIANS SUCCEED TO GUARANTY SECURITY THEY WILL GAIN ISRAEL'S, AMERICA'S AND EUROPE'S CONFIDENCE. THAT WILL ONLY BENEFIT THEM ON THEIR PATH TO THEIR OWN STATE."

3. "THE DOUBLE SHARON"

THORSTEN SCHMITZ EDITORIALIZED IN CENTER-LEFT SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (11/26):

"THE EU REPRESENTATIVE'S RECENT CRITICISM, SAYING THAT ESTABLISHING A WALL AND DESTROYING PALESTINIAN HOUSES DO NOT HELP TO SOLVE THE JERUSALEM ISSUE, WAS OVERDUE. THE SETTLEMENTS ARE NOT JUST EXTENDED IN THE WEST BANK, BUT ALSO IN JERUSALEM'S EAST, WHICH THE PALESTINIAN'S SEE AS THEIR FUTURE CAPITAL. AS IF THE DISENGAGEMENT OF 8,000 SETTLERS NEVER HAPPENED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SETTLERS IS RISING.. THE GAZA WITHDRAWAL WAS JUST A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC."

E. (ENVIRONMENT) MONTREAL CLIMATE CONFERENCE

1. "SUMMIT PROSPECTS"

NICO FICKINGER ARGUED IN AN EDITORIAL IN CENTER-RIGHT FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (11/28):

"BASICALLY, THE CONFERENCE IN MONTREAL FOCUSES ON THE QUESTION ON HOW THE UNITED STATES CAN BE PROMPTED TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.. THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE POLICY IS AT A CROSSROADS: WILL THE KYOTO STATES CONTINUE TO STICK TO THEIR PROMISES AND SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO FURTHER EFFORTS TO REDUCE THEIR EMISSIONS? OR WILL AMERICAN RESISTANCE STRENGTHENED BY THE ASIAN-PACIFIC ALLIANCE THWART THE KYOTO SYSTEM? THIS QUESTION WILL BE DECIDED IN MONTREAL, FOR THE CONFERENCE MUST AGREE ON MEASURES TO BE TAKEN ONCE THE KYOTO PROTOCOL EXPIRES IN 2012..

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/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 6 *****/

"THE CHANCES FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE KYOTO PROCESS ARE NOT THAT BAD. FURTHER MEASURES ARE EXPECTED FROM THE HOSTING CANADIANS. THEY WANT TO SPEED UP THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE AND WANT TO GET THE AMERICANS ONBOARD. EVEN LARGE THRESHOLD COUNTRIES FEEL THE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO REJECT BINDING MEASURES AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT IMPOSE CERTAIN REDUCTION STANDARDS ON THEM..

"AN AMBITIOUS INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE PROTECTION POLICY IS IMPORTANT. BUT IT WILL SUCCEED ONLY IF ALL COUNTRIES JOIN SUCH A POLICY. THE CLIMATE DIPLOMATS MUST CANVASS ALL OTHER COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, OR FIND BETTER WAYS TO PREVENT COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES FOR THOSE WHO JUMP ON THE BANDWAGON. WHY SHOULD THIS GOAL NOT BE ACHIEVED? SOMETIMES SUMMITEERS ARE REWARDED AFTER TOUGH TALKS."

2. "APPROXIMATE DIRECTION: CLIMATE PROTECTION"

JOACHIM WILLE EDITORIALIZED IN LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (11/28):

"WITHOUT KYOTO, WE WOULD NOT EVEN KNOW THE APPROXIMATE DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE. KYOTO IS ADMONISHING THE MEMBER STATES YEAR AFTER YEAR: DEVELOP NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS, IMPROVE EMISSION TRADING, AND PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGIES. KYOTO MEANS: THE POTENTIAL TO SAVE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSION ARE THERE AND EACH COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT USE THEM SHOWS THAT IT IS NOT GOVERNED BY RESPONSIBLE POLITICIANS AND COMPANIES BUT BY SHORT-TERM PROFITEERS.

"OF COURSE, KYOTO MUST BE MADE FIT FOR THE FUTURE. IT MUST BE CLEAR WHICH SANCTIONS WILL FOLLOW IF COUNTRIES FAIL TO REACH THE GOALS. DECISIONS MUST BE MADE WITH A SIMPLE MAJORITY, NOT AS BEFORE WITH UNANIMITY. THE ACCESSION TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL MUST BE MADE APPEALING TO THE UNITED STATES, EVEN THOUGH HOPES ARE MINIMAL THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN DURING PRESIDENT BUSH'S TERM. TALKS ARE NECESSARY ON HOW THRESHOLD COUNTRIES LIKE CHINA AND INDIA CAN CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE PROTECTION AND HOW THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY CAN SUPPORT THE POOR COUNTRIES IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES. THERE IS MUCH TO DO. THEREFORE: IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO WRITE OFF THE MONTREAL CONFERENCE."

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F. (CHINA) HARBIN DISASTER

1. "DISCOVERY OF ECOLOGY"

SABINE MUSCAT OPINED IN BUSINESS DAILY FINANCIAL TIMES

DEUTSCHLAND OF HAMBURG (11/28):

"ON BANNERS AND POSTERS, THE CHINESE ARE CALLED UPON TO KEEP THEIR RESIDENTIAL AREAS CLEAN, DISCHARGE THEIR WASTE AND REDUCE THEIR CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY. THE MIDDLE KINGDOM OBVIOUSLY HAS REALIZED THAT UNIMPEDED GROWTH WILL JEOPARDIZE THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THE PEOPLE IF THE ENVIRONMENT IS INVOLVED.. BUT THE DISASTROUS ENVIRONMENTAL ACCIDENT IN THE NORTHEAST OF THE COUNTRY DEMONSTRATED TO THE WHOLE WORLD HOW FAR ECOLOGICAL CLAIM AND ECOLOGICAL REALITY ARE APART.. WITH OUTRAGE THE REST OF THE WORLD IS NOW POINTING TO THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP BECAUSE AUTHORITIES WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE THREAT TO SO MANY PEOPLE. AND THERE IS A JUSTIFIED FEAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT THE PICTURES FROM HARBIN ONLY SHOWED A FRACTION OF THE THINGS CHINA KEEPS SECRET. THE OPAQUE INFORMATION POLICY OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE AVIAN FLU HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED TO ALLEVIATING THIS GLOBAL UNEASE..

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 7 *****/

"BUT THE AWARENESS OF A MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY-SAFE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IS MORE WIDESPREAD IN CHINA TODAY THAN IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO.. CHINA IS THE SECOND-LARGEST POLLUTER OF CARBON DIOXIDE FOLLOWING THE UNITED STATES. BUT AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, IT MUST NOT COMPLY WITH THE TOUGH RESTRICTIONS OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. THE FACT THAT CHINA IS TAKING EFFORTS TO SHAPE ITS ECONOMIC GROWTH IN A MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE WAY IS A GOOD SIGN.. SOMETHING MUST QUICKLY HAPPEN TO CUSHION OFF THE ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ECONOMIC BOOM, SINCE OTHERWISE THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL BE AFFECTED.. THE WEST, IN TURN, SHOULD INSTEAD OF POINTING TO BEIJING CONSIDER THE MOST RECENT DISASTER AN INCENTIVE TO SUPPORT CHINA TO GET ITS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS UNDER CONTROL. THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IS NOWHERE AS IMPORTANT AS IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. WHO KNOWS, BUT MAYBE GROWING DEMANDS IN CHINA COULD PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THUS OPENING UP NEW MARKETS FOR GERMAN COMPANIES."

2. RIGHT-OF-CENTER MAIN-POST OF WRZBURG (11/28) ARGUED:

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"AT LEAST SUCH ACCIDENTS AND DEPLORABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS CAN NO LONGER BE KEPT SECRET TODAY. THE WEST IS BECOMING AWARE OF DEVELOPMENTS, IT HAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MIDDLE KINGDOM PLANS TO RECONQUER THE PLACE IT LOST IN THE MIDDLE AGES. NOW IT SEEMS THAT WE ALL HAVE TO PAY A HIGH, POSSIBLY EXCESSIVELY HIGH PRICE, FOR CHINA. TODAY, THE COUNTRY IS THE SECOND LARGEST POLLUTER OF GREENHOUSE GASES. THE SMOLDERING COAL DEPOTS ARE PRODUCING FOUR TIMES MORE CARBON DIOXIDE THAN THE ENTIRE GERMAN CAR TRAFFIC. AND TWO OUT OF THREE RIVERS ARE POLLUTED BECAUSE NUMEROUS PLANTS DISCHARGE THEIR WASTE WITH IMPUNITY INTO THE RIVERS."

G. (CHECHNYA) ELECTIONS

1. RIGHT-OF-CENTER MITTELBAYERISCHE ZEITUNG OF REGENSBURG (11/28) OBSERVED:

"EVEN AFTER THIS ELECTORAL DAY IN CHECHNYA, HARDLY A RAY OF HOPE REMAINS THAT THE 'PACIFICATION' OF THE COUNTRY CAN REALLY BE CONCLUDED, AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE WESTERN UNDERSTANDING OF DEMOCRACY. MOSCOW ON ONE SIDE, AND PARIS, LONDON, ROME, AND BERLIN ON THE OTHER ARE STILL MILES APART WITH RESPECT TO THE DEFINITION OF PEACE, SECURITY, AND STABILITY. BUT THE POWERS THAT BE IN MOSCOW HAVE UNDERSTOOD LONG AGO THAT HISTORICAL AND ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS WILL HARDLY ALLOW A TRUE AND LASTING PEACE IN NORTHERN CAUCASUS. THAT IS WHY THE KREMLIN EQUATES THE FORMULA 'PEACE IN CHECHNYA' WITH A CONTROLLED QUIET ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD. AND WE CANNOT REJECT CHARGES THAT SOME LEADING POLITICIANS IN THE WEST SECRETLY THINK THE SAME."

TIMKEN

ADMIN

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